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☒ Proposed Claim Amendment Re: 11/29/06 Discussion

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**PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENT**

Serial No. 10/692,840

Docket No. 9501-70665

**RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****NOV 29 2006****REMARKS REGARDING U.S. PAT. APP. NO. 7,014,930 TO DANIEL ET AL. ("DANIEL")  
IN RESPONSE TO THE DISCUSSION WITH EXAMINER HANDAL ON NOVEMBER 29,  
2006**

Applicants set forth the following proposed amendment to claim 1 for the Examiner's consideration:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a plasma fuel reformer having a first electrode and second electrode spaced apart from the first electrode, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a plasma arc between the first and second electrodes,

advancing a first air/fuel mixture having a first air-to-fuel ratio into the plasma arc,

determining if a soot purge of the plasma fuel reformer is to be performed and generating a purge-soot signal in response thereto, and

advancing a second air/fuel mixture having a second air-to-fuel ratio into the plasma arc in response to generation of the purge-soot signal, wherein the second air-to-fuel ratio is greater than the first air-to-fuel ratio.

Applicants believe this amendment to claim 1 distinguishes it from the teachings of Daniel. Specifically, Daniel is generally directed towards purging soot from emission abatement devices positioned downstream of a fuel reformer, while proposed amended claim 1 includes limitations directed towards purging soot from a plasma fuel reformer itself.

Respectfully submitted,

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